No 655 March 31, 2002

SPRING FRESH!

THE FUNDAY TIMES

Bursting out!
Refresh your week with a Funday fix! It's fizzing with extra spring zest

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Walt Disney Studios opens its gates and we test the rides and attractions

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When she's in London, Britney always chats to Funday Buzz!

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SCOOBY-DOO! in GHOST WRITER

The story so far – Horror writer Steve Kingman is haunted by one of his ghostly creations – can Mystery Inc. help him out?

More inside

SCOOBY-DOO AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © HANNA-BARBERA (S02)

BELLEFIRE BANTER

In the first of our weekly columns with Irish girlband Bellefire, we meet Tara

Bellefire last spoke to Funday in June last year – what have you been up to since then?

Our first single, Perfect Bliss, did really well on Japanese radio. Japan is the second biggest market in the world, second to America, so we had to go over there – we couldn't not. We spent three months working in Japan and it was an amazing experience. But it's really good to be back over here now.

What was Japan like?

It was a shock and we were wide-eyed for the first few days. The people are really welcoming, really warm and really gentle. My dad is from Hong Kong, so I'm half Chinese and I've always wanted to go to Asia, I feel it is part of me, and I've never been before. I'd love to go to Hong Kong but Japan is the closest I've been.

How did the fans react to you?

It's strange, the first day we arrived in Japan there were a few fans waiting for us at the hotel. They had little pictures of us that we had never seen before, and they knew our names. This was literally after being in the country for an hour! Once, on a radio show, we mentioned that we love Hello Kitty and we started getting lots of Hello Kitty stuff. They spent so much time writing little letters and they really made us feel special.

How do Japanese fans differ from UK fans?

During performances, Japanese fans sit down and are so quiet, there's not a squeak out of them. And when you finish they get really excited. It felt a bit awkward at the start. We kept thinking we weren't going down very well!

PICTURES: JAMIE MORGAN

Bellefire are back in Funday – every week!

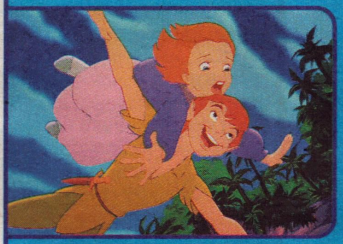
FUNDAY

NEWS

Pan part two

Return To Neverland, Disney's sequel to the 1953 Peter Pan movie, follows Wendy's daughter, Jane, to Neverland. The makers decided it was important to stay true to the original, and so the crew spent hours studying the classic film's records to develop the correct style of drawing.

"We were forever worrying what Walt would think of the new movie," admits producer Christopher Chase. "It's daunting to make a sequel of an animated classic."



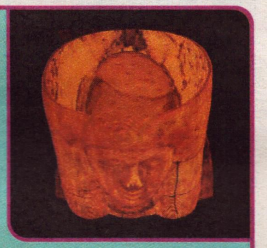
Animator Mike Sutherland drew Jane, along with 11 other animators. "It was quite difficult to get used to some of the older styles of animation," says Mike. "The eyes were very different. Today they tend to be really big but back then the pupils were tiny."

Original drawings of Wendy were also pinned on the studio walls to help everyone get the look right. "There was a lot of pressure on us but it was probably easier for me because Jane is a new character and so didn't have to match anyone from the old movie," admits Mike. "It was worth all the hard work – the end results are stunning."

Christopher Chase, Sharon Morrill and Myke Sutherland

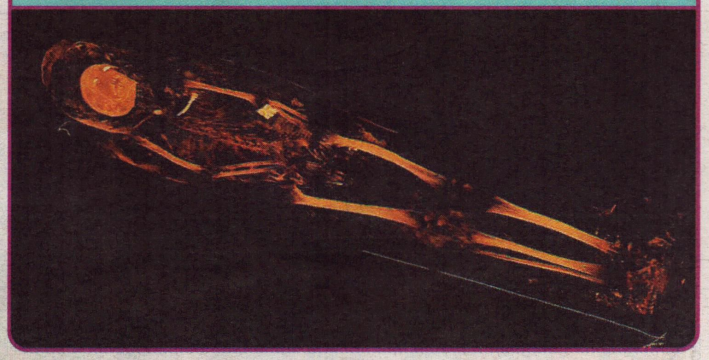
PICTURES: NICK POTTS ©DISNEY ENTERPRISES INC/BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

X-ray mummy

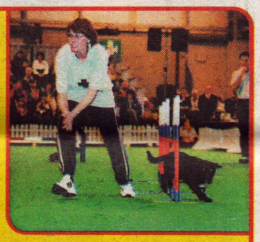


Scientists have used hi-tech scanning equipment to reveal the first virtual image of an Egyptian mummy. These pictures show the skeleton of the 3,000-year-old mummy, Nesperennub, which has been housed in the British Museum since 1899.

The scans also reveal a ceramic bowl placed on Nesperennub's head. This has never been seen before and raises new questions about Egyptian burial rituals. Dr John Taylor, assistant keeper of the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan at the British Museum told Funday. "The initial results have absolutely exceeded our expectations. They have solved some of the unanswered questions about Nesperennub and have opened up exciting new avenues of investigation."



Wonder dogs



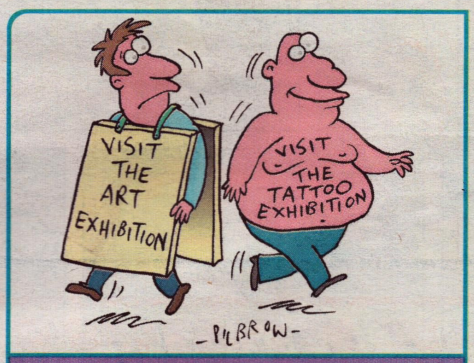
Crufts isn't just a show for the most pampered, pristine pooches around. The recent world-famous dog show also saw some rescue dogs demonstrate their paw power!

A special dog agility event, featuring 35 dogs from five charities – The Blue Cross, Battersea Dogs Home, NCDL, RSPCA and Wood Green Animal Shelter – was staged on a mini assault course at Birmingham's NEC. "People think rescue dogs can't do anything," said Liz Grant, Blue Cross centre manager at Northiam. "This display promotes rescue dogs and gets the message over that old dogs will learn new tricks. Some have never been trained – but look at them now!"

And Liz explained that the daring dogs love showing off. "The dogs get so much fun out of it. After winter, when they go to the first spring show, they get to meet up with their own dog friends. Goodness knows what they talk about!"

Flying tortoise

This baby tortoise is recovering at Drayton Manor Zoo, in Staffordshire, after being found wandering along the aisle of an aeroplane! The tiny tortoise was spotted on a flight from Tunisia. "The tortoise is officially called Fez but staff here at Drayton Manor have nicknamed it Tiny Tim," says Robin Roberts, Drayton Manor zoo manager. "It's a Mediterranean spur side tortoise and we don't know yet whether it's a boy or a girl. As it grows we'll be able to tell by the shell." Fez was put in a saucer of water to re-hydrate him when he arrived and has been recovering well in his own vivarium. "He is so small we don't want to introduce him to other reptiles who might squash him!" adds Robin.

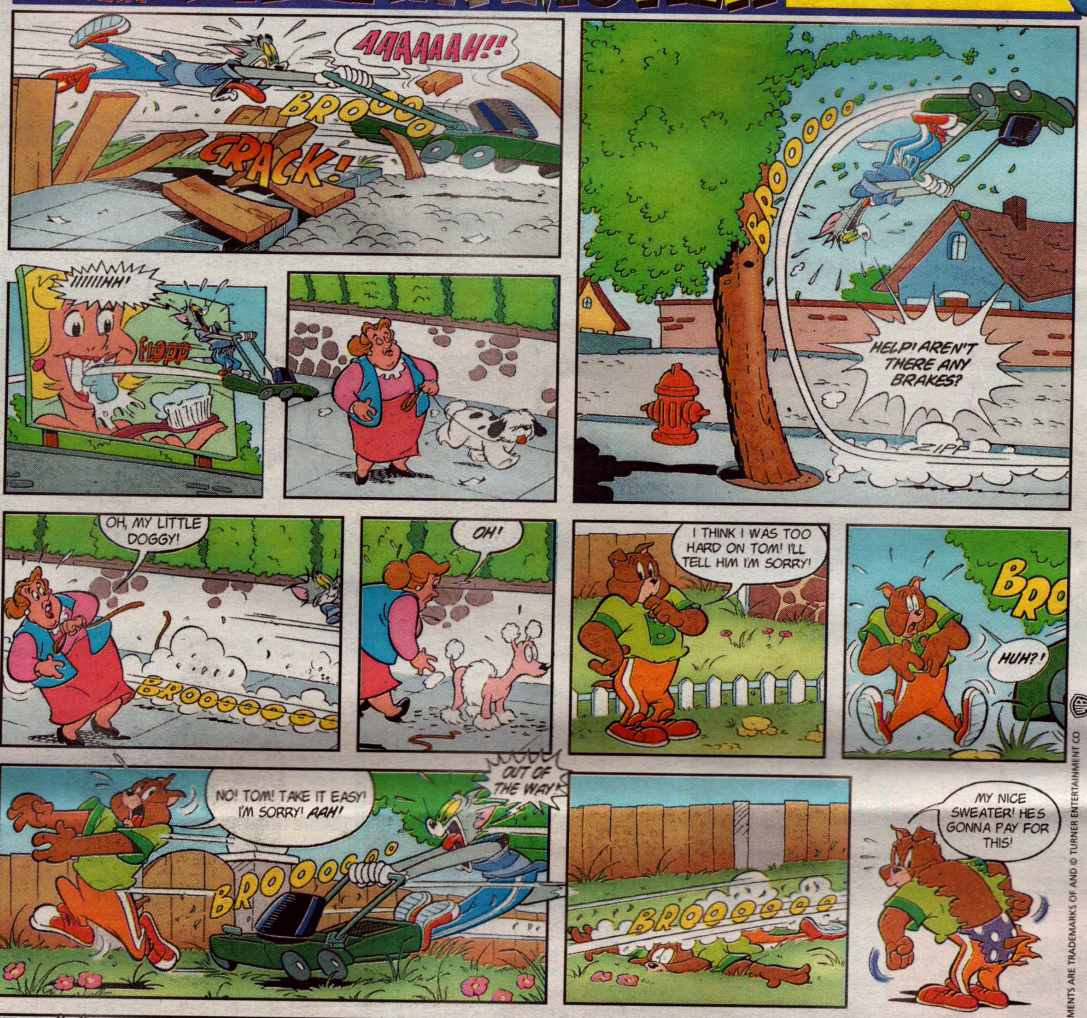


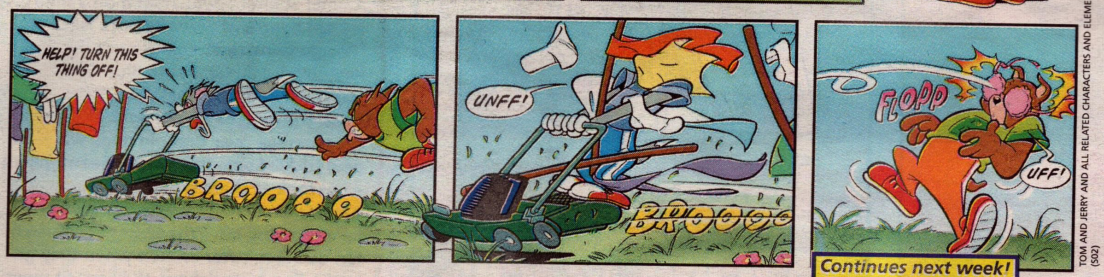
Marine marks

Britney Spears, David Beckham and Robbie Williams all have them, in fact, tattooing has become a popular fashion accessory. But it has been around for centuries and Skin Deep: A History Of Tattooing is a new exhibition devoted to the artform. Visitors to the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich can discover that sailors were the first Europeans exposed to tattooing during Captain Cook's voyages through the Pacific islands, which began in 1768. Fascinated by the islanders' tattoos, some of Cook's crew were tattooed themselves setting a trend among sailors from around the world. For info, go to www.nmm.ac.uk

TOM AND JERRY: THE LAWNMOWER

The story so far – The big spring garden clean up has got completely out of hand. And Tom's out of control!





Continues next week!

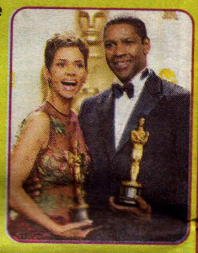
TOM AND JERRY AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO. (S02)

BRAINBOX

I'm Brainbox – the Funday boffin! Send in a puzzling question you want to know the answer to and see if my friends and I can answer it.

After watching the Oscar ceremony, I just wanted to know why the Oscars are called Oscars, and what are they made of?
Carl Evans, 10, Buxton

The Oscars are presented by the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which is a professional organisation of film writers, directors, actors, producers and technicians. A popular story as to why the Academy Award is called Oscar is that an Academy librarian thought the statuette resembled her Uncle Oscar and so staff began referring to it as Oscar. The awards first took place in 1928, but the nickname wasn't officially adopted until 1939.

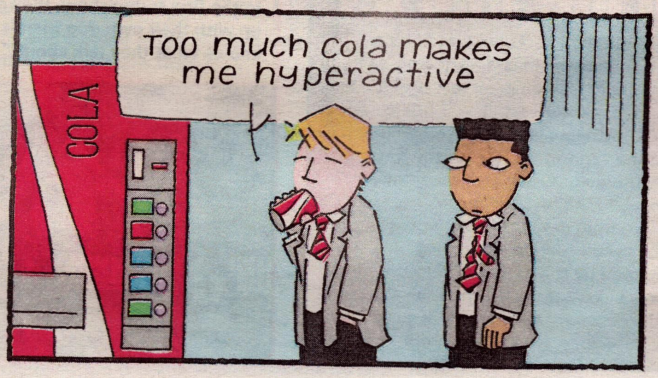


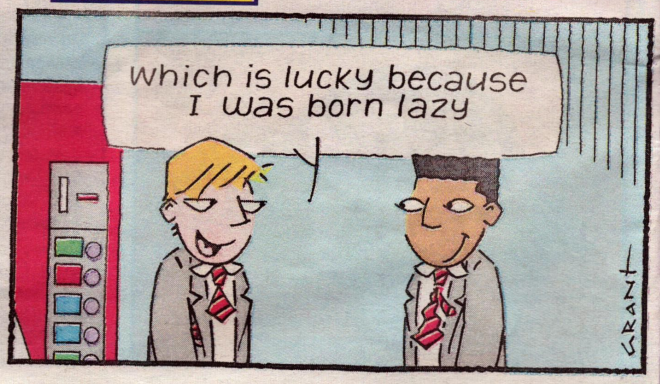
The statuette itself depicts a knight holding a crusader's sword, standing on a reel of film with five spokes, signifying the original branches of the Academy: actors, writers, directors, producers, and technicians. It has a metal base [which was originally black marble until the 1940s] and the statuette is bronze, plated with 24-carat gold. It stands 34cm tall and weighs 4kg.

Answer from www.oscar.com

If you have a question for Brainbox, write to: Brainbox, The Funday Times, PO Box 495, London E98 1ST or e-mail brainbox@sunday-times.co.uk

Jarvis





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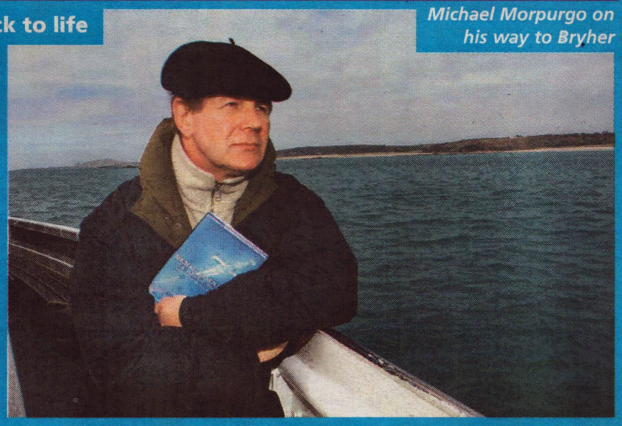
Enoy the Easter break!

EXCALIBUR AWAKE!

Top author Michael Morpurgo brings the legend of King Arthur back to life

Michael with the sword that inspired his new book, The Sleeping Sword



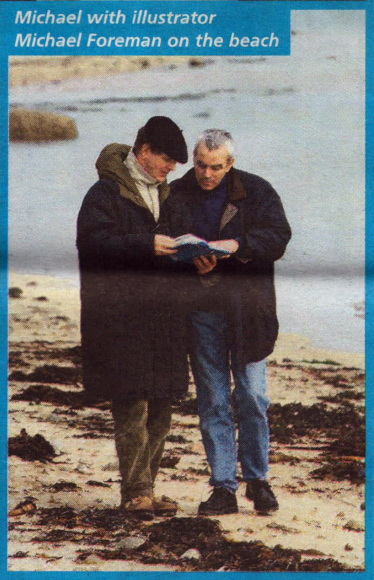
Michael Morpurgo on his way to Bryher

It was a real-life discovery on the Isles of Scilly that inspired award-winning author Michael Morpurgo to write his latest book, The Sleeping Sword.

For the past 20 years, Michael and his family have visited Bryher, one of the the remote and rugged isles that lie off the coast of Cornwall, 45km south-west of Land's End.

"It's a wonderful place," explains Michael who's back on Bryher to launch the book. "On one island with only 80 inhabitants, you have beaches to die for on one side, with the softest, whitest sand I have ever walked on in this country. And on the other, there are great rearing cliffs – all threat and violence. It's an extraordinary place."

Bryher: the land of legend



Michael with illustrator Michael Foreman on the beach

Farmer Paul Jenkins with his discovery

During one of his visits, Michael heard the amazing story of Bryher farmer Paul Jenkins, a local hero who made an historic find. While out spraying his potato crop, Paul's tractor fell into a hole in the field. On further investigation, Paul discovered an ancient tomb dating back 2,000 years. There, at the bottom was what turned out to be a shield, a bronze mirror, a fleece ... and a bronze sword. It was a significant find. Charlie Johns, a senior archeologist in Cornwall says it is: "... a discovery of national, if not international, importance. It's dating from at least the second century BC."

That's when author Michael Morpurgo's imagination kicked in. "When I hear real stories like that, I get a tingle. I thought this is just wonderful," explains Michael. "But it took me a year and a half to translate a pretty cute idea into an interesting story."

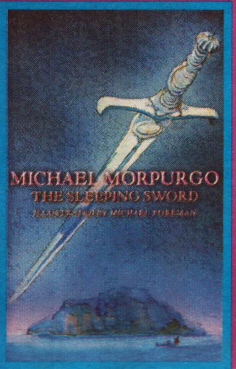
Michael started to weave his fictional tale, The Sleeping Sword, around Paul Jenkins's amazing find – sprinkling it with a little bit of Arthurian legend along the way. In Michael's tale, a local Bryher boy called Bun is blinded in an accident. Then, one day, he stumbles into a hole in his father's field and discovers a tomb, complete with an ancient sword. Bun – who's a big fan of the King Arthur tales – tells his own imaginative story in which the sword is none other than Excalibur, King Arthur's sword of old, and its strange magical properties begin to have an amazing effect on young Bun.

"It's about the joy of writing, and the ability we have to tell stories. How healing can involve telling our anxieties and dreams and weaving them into a tale," says Michael, who has previously set his books The Wreck of the Zanzibar and Why The Whales Came on Bryher.

There's also a very personal side to The Sleeping Sword for Michael. His stepfather, Jack, gradually went blind.

"I had been watching him over 25 years, coping with the darkness inside his head. To lose his sight was the cruellest cut of all. It was because my stepfather had such terrible trouble that I thought, this is where Excalibur could come into it."

For the launch of his book, Michael and his illustrator, Michael Foreman, returned to Bryher, where the whole community turned out to hear him read from The Sleeping Sword. "This book is dedicated to the people of Bryher," Michael told them. "To thank you for all the happiness you have given me and my family over the years. Scilly is full of stories, but I spend a lot of time just dreaming here. It's a wonderful place to come and dream."



The Sleeping Sword is published by Egmont [£9 99]

ARTHUR THE MYTH

- Arthur is the mythological High King of Britain. Legend has it that he ruled from Camelot with his beautiful wife, Queen Guinevere.
- Arthur became the rightful king when he drew the sword Excalibur from the stone, when still a boy.
- Arthur and his famous knights sat at the round table, according to legend. Sir Thomas Malory wrote about Arthur in the 15th century, and the poet Tennyson revived the legend during the reign of Queen Victoria.
- The real Arthur is thought to have ruled some time between 450 and 550 AD, though no-one knows for sure. It's possible that, over the years, stories of many kings have merged to form one legendary ruler.

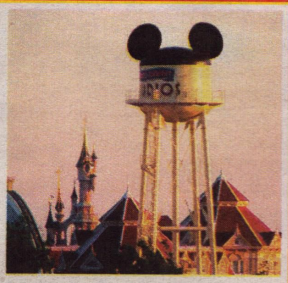
PICTURE: AP/DOUG MILLS; ILLUSTRATION: JON STUART

PICTURES: SIMON BURT/APEX, ©GIBSONS OF SCILLY. WRITTEN BY DAMIAN KELLEHER

Dave Coombs checks out the rides and attractions in the ne

LIGHTS, CAM

1 Last week saw the gala opening of Europe's newest theme park – Walt Disney Studios in Paris. A specially-suited Mickey Mouse launched the opening party, which was attended by British celebrities including Ian Wright, Kerry Katona, Roger Moore, Patsy Palmer and Sid Owen.



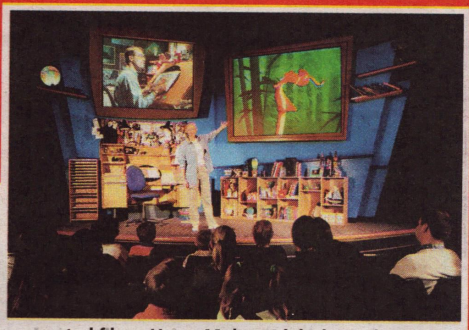
2 The Walt Disney Studios are built next to the original Disneyland Park [which celebrates its 10th birthday next month]. And just as Disneyland is characterised by its pink fairytale castle, the studios have their own icon – a traditional Hollywood water tower, topped with Mickey Mouse ears and jokingly referred to by staff as the "earful tower".

3 Walking into the studios can be a bit like taking a stroll through some of your favourite movies – not only can you discover how films are created, you can also meet some of the coolest characters – like Mike and Sulley from Monsters, Inc.

4 On entering the park, you walk into a vast building called Studio 1 – in which visitors are instantly caught up in the buzz of movie-making. Studio 1 is built to resemble a working Hollywood soundstage, complete with scenery and roving cast and crew. It's fun to get caught up in the action – and if you look behind the facades you'll discover souvenir shops and fast-food counters.

5 The Art Of Animation is the attraction in which to discover some Disney movie-making secrets and explore the history of the moving image. There are lots of buttons to press and knobs to twiddle, plus you can see some amazing early animation devices work – including a zoetrobe, a phenakistoscope, a magic lantern and a praxinoscope.

6 Nestling in the corner you can discover one of Walt's original multi-plane cameras [there are only two left in the world]. Walt invented the revolutionary camera so that different parts of the same scene could be independently animated, and to give his films a realistic feeling of depth.



7 Next, a Disney artist demonstrates how new characters are created for animated films. Using Mulan sidekick Mushu as an example, the artist shows how characters are altered and adapted during the creation of a film.

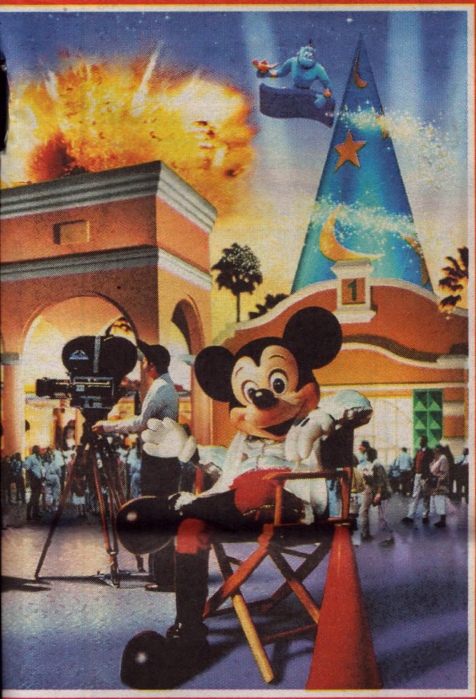
8 And once you've picked up a few tricks of the trade, you can test your skills. If you're feeling artistic, you can draw a Disney character for yourself – with the help of an expert. Or you and your mates can provide voices for the soundtrack of an animated scene – which is hilarious fun to do and play back.

THE FUND

For more information on Walt Disney S
Travel and accommodation p

w Walt Disney Studios theme park at Disneyland Resort Paris

ERAS, MAGIC!

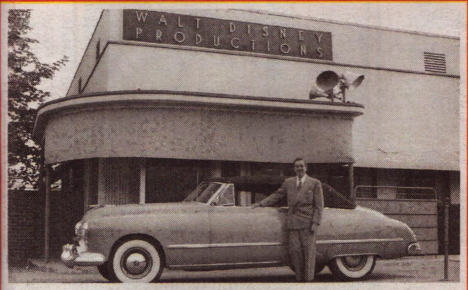


10 Bringing things right up to date is the Television Production Tour, in which you can see behind the scenes at Disney Channel France, and explore the inner workings of a studio, as the channel broadcasts live from the park, six days a week.

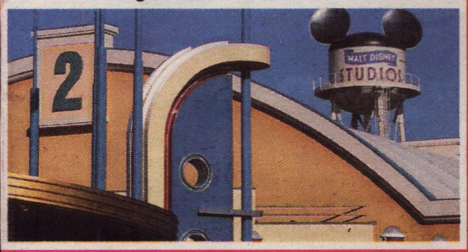
11 The Studio Tram Tour is little bit strange because it's a behind-the-scenes look at a movie studio – although there isn't a real studio here. But that doesn't stop it being a spectacular journey. The highlight of the tour is catastrophe canyon, in which riders experience a simulated earthquake, fire and dramatic flood!

12 Armageddon Special Effects is one of the park's most stunning attractions because it puts you in the middle of the action. A pre-show describes how special effects are used to enhance movies – though this is entirely in French and the English subtitles are tricky to read since the screens are positioned so high. But the drama begins once you walk onto the set – and experience at close range fiery explosions, hissing gas leaks and a bumpy asteroid storm! Hold tight – and try not to flinch!

13 But to see how the professionals really do it, take a seat and marvel at the spectacular Moteurs... Action! stunt show, designed by famous French action wizard Remy Julienne. Rémy is the man behind the stunts in the James Bond films – so, it's an impressive display!



9 The buildings at Walt Disney Studios look a bit old-fashioned and that's because they're based on the art deco-style Hyperion Avenue Studios in Los Angeles, where Walt Disney first produced the Mickey Mouse animated shorts and Snow White, the first full-length animated film.



14 As well as stunt cars, jet-skiing and falls, the show features some amazing motorbike riding, including this scene in which a rider slips through a wall of fire and bursts into flames. After he is extinguished, the audience is shown how the effect is achieved, using five layers of protection and a flammable gel.

15 At the rear of the park, lurks the most thrilling ride of all – Rock 'N' Roller Coaster starring Aerosmith! This coaster features an incredible catapult launch [0-100kph in 2.8 seconds], followed by loops, drops and a corkscrew through a dazzling lightshow. The awesome journey is accompanied by an Aerosmith soundtrack that blares from the on-board sound system, consisting of five speakers per seat!

PICTURES ©DISNEY

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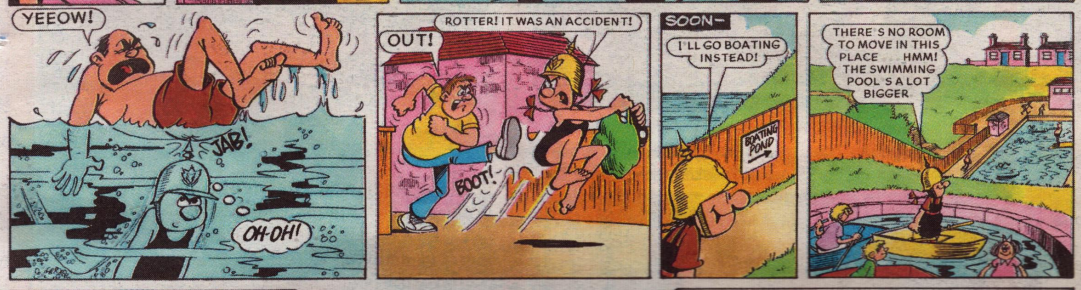
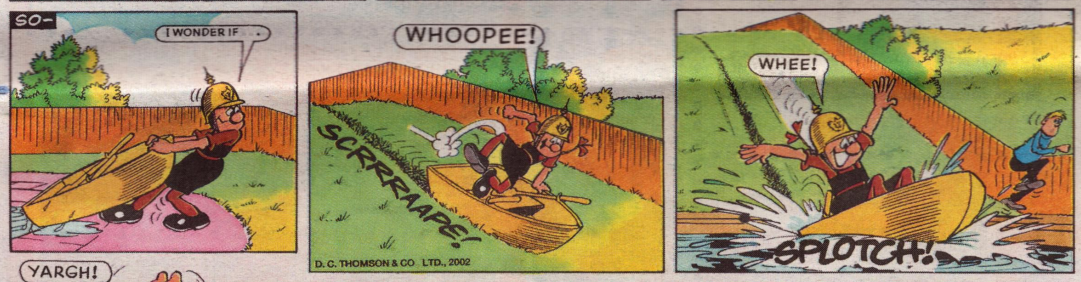
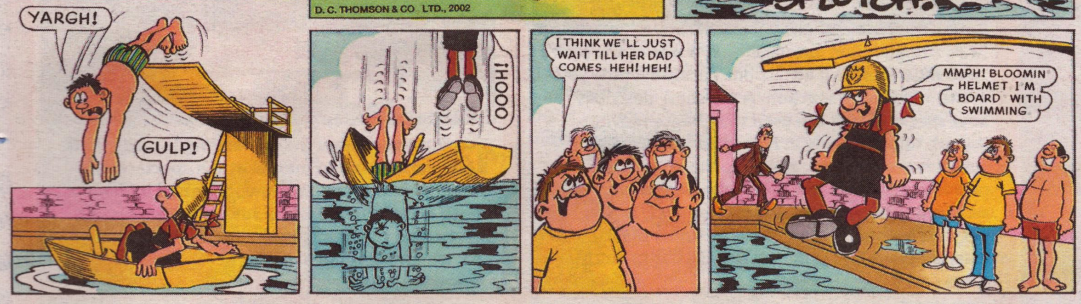
udios, visit www.disneylandparis.com
rovided by Disneyland Paris

BERYL the PERIL

BERYL THE PERIL APPEARS EVERY WEEK IN The DANDY



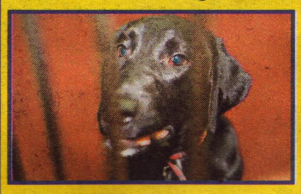




WEBBY'S WORLD

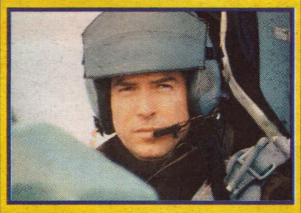
www.dogshome.org

The world-famous Battersea Dogs Home has just launched its new website. While the database of rescued dogs shows the important work done at the home, that's not all there is here. There are tips on pet ownership, canine counselling, a lost dog line and a section of games, including The Flea Circus and Dog Piano.



www.jamesbond.com

Die Another Day is the 20th James Bond film, starring Pierce Brosnan and Halle Berry [out November 22]. To find out more, make it your mission to track down the official 007 site. The site's intro is just like the classic opening to the films, complete with theme tune and James strolling into view. Fantastic!



PICTURES: PA, TONY BUCKINGHAM

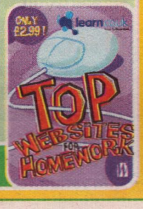
If you are a webhead and have discovered a great site, or have created one of your own, spin me a mail and tell me all about it on webby@sunday-times.co.uk

FRESH!

TOP WEBSITES FOR HOMEWORK

Kate Brookes ✪✪✪✪✪

Log on and let the internet take the strain of your homework with this invaluable and compact guide to helpful websites for your class assignments. Priced at only £2.99, the book's chapters are divided into different school subjects and key stages and give concise descriptions of what each site will offer. It's a useful tool to help you target your searches for answers, leaving you more free time to enjoy the fun things in life.



BOOK

AIR ✪✪✪✪✪

The latest Alton Towers attraction has to be ridden to be believed... it's absolutely exhilarating! You start by sitting in your seat with your shoulders and ankles snugly restrained, before slowly tipping into a horizontal position, hanging from the track, face down. During the ride itself, you really feel like you are going to swoop into the landscape at any minute, but just as you think you are, you soar up and away. Next second, you are flying on your back staring at the sky. As Nelly Furtado says: "I'm like a bird!"

THRILL RIDE

MARY-KATE AND ASHLEY – SO LITTLE TIME 1: HOW TO TRAIN A BOY ✪✪✪✪✪

Mary-Kate and Ashley bring their sassy ways to the book world with the So Little Time series, which claims to offer real books for real girls. Quite frankly, though, it's doubtful many real girls outside Hollywood experience the dilemma of trying to woo the school hunk while also helping mum design a dress for the MTV awards! That aside, if you like fluffy fun complete with fashion, shopping and boy dramas – it's Olsen heaven. Go girls!

BOOK

Beryl's in hot water next week!

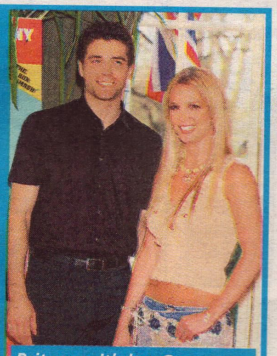
FUNDAY BUZZ!

BRITNEY MOVIE MANIA

When Britney hit London last week, to attend the premiere of her glittering new movie, Cross Roads, she also sat down for a chat with Funday Buzz!

Hi Britney, what do you like to do when you're in London?

I love the food here, I love going out shopping, and the theatre here's really cool. Honestly, I don't have that many days off when I'm here. But I have cousins in the UK, so I'm definitely going to make a trip where I can come and really chill out and relax because it's very beautiful.



Britney with her Cross Roads co-star Anson Mount

In the film, your character Lucy reaches a crossroads in her life, have you reached one in yours?

Personally, the main crossroads in my life was probably three years ago when I left my small town and went to the big city to pursue my dreams and get a record deal.

Were you nervous, the first day on set?

You know what, I was really nervous at first. I am really used to performing on stage, and I'm confident with that, but this was a whole new territory for me.

If you were to go on a road trip, like Lucy does in the film, where would you go and who would you take with you?

I'd just go cross country and see where the road takes me. I'd take my three girlfriends, and we'd bring a lot of CDs, food and a credit card!

And if you had a time-capsule like Lucy, what things would you put in it to tell your children in years to come about making your first movie?

Probably the outfit my little sister wore to play the young Lucy. It would be cute to give that to my kids. I think that would be really sweet.

Cross Roads [cert PG] is out now

A QUESTION OF POP

Buzz! asks Aurora's Simon Greenaway about the band's new single and new sound

Your new single isn't as dancey as the previous two, is it?

No, it's more of a pop song, with live instruments and a 22-piece string section with violins, violas, cellos and double basses.

How long does it take you to write a four-minute pop song?

It varies. We didn't actually write this song – it's by the guy who wrote Queen Of My Heart for Westlife – but when Sacha and I write songs it takes about a day. I get ideas at really weird times, like I'll wake up at 3am with a new tune in my head. I have a tape recorder by my bed, so I can sing the tune into it, then go back to sleep.

And how long do they take to record?

This one took us five days. We started with the drums, then added the vocals and other instruments, then finally the string section. It was quite quick, really – some songs take up to two weeks.

You used to write music for ads, including one for The Sunday Times. If you were going to do one for Funday, how would it go?

It would be something really lively and catchy, maybe like the music Steps used to make. And I'd get Will Young and Gareth Gates to sing it, so it'd be a huge hit.

Simon [left] with Sacha and vocalist Lizzy

Aurora's new single, Dreaming, is out tomorrow

BACK WHEN ... I WAS AT SCHOOL

Thaila from allSTARS remembers her school days

My family moved to the UK from Italy, so I started primary school later than everyone else. I don't remember my first day, but I'm sure it went OK, otherwise I'd remember how horrible it was.

I have to admit that I wasn't a good girl. I was always cheeky and sarcastic to teachers, and I hated the playground staff because they made us wear our coats – even when we were running around in the hot sunshine. They also told the teachers that I'd been naughty, even when I hadn't. That made me more rebellious and by the time I got to secondary school I was even cheekier. I used to make fun of the science teacher because he had big bushy eyebrows and bogeys – so he made me stand in the corner.

I loved drama and art lessons and fortunately, when I got a bit older, I realised how horrible I was being to the teachers. I decided I should be a nice girl, behave myself and get on with learning. Then I won the art cup, which made me really proud. I even did well in my maths exam and that was a subject I was terrible at.

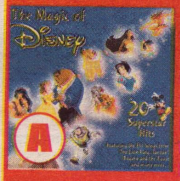
allSTARS' new single, Back When, is released on April 15

HOT!

S Single
A Album

TAKE IT EASY 3SL ★★★★

Planet pop has been crying out for a new boyband recently – and thankfully 3SL have burst onto the scene to save the day. After the sad demise of both Point Break and Five last year, the charts lacked lad-bands that sing something other than ballads. As you probably know by now, Ant, Andy and Steve Scott-Lee are the brothers of Lisa from Steps, and their debut track is a bright, funky pop track that's bursting with energy and has a fab catchy chorus. The boys can dance too – as anyone who saw them on the recent S Club tour will confirm. Welcome 3SL!



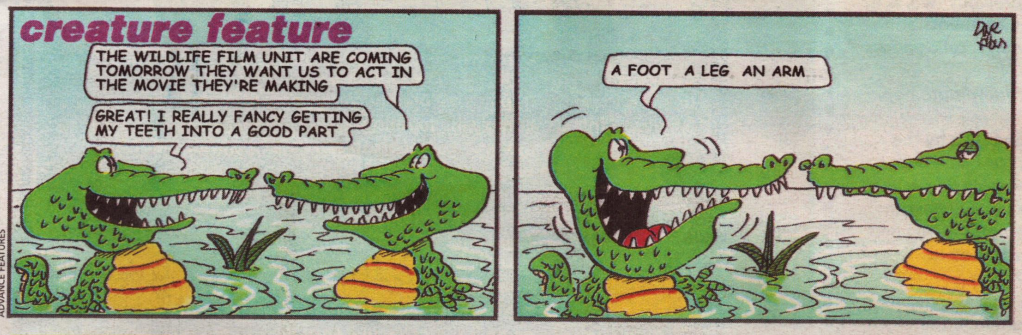
THE MAGIC OF DISNEY ★★★

At first glance this CD sounds like a great idea – "20 Superstar Hits" screams the cover – but take a close look before you shell out your pocket money. Some of Disney's biggest hits are here – Circle Of Life [Lion King], A Whole New World [Aladdin], Beauty And The Beast and Colours Of The Wind [Pocahontas] – but beware, many are the re-recorded versions that are traditionally used for the closing credits rather than the tracks the characters sing in the films. But you do get the real Friend In Me from Toy Story, Shaggy's fab version of Under The Sea from Little Mermaid and Christina Aguilera performing Reflection from Mulan.

U-TURN Usher ★★★★★

The intro to this song borrows heavily from Survivor by Destiny's Child, but after a couple of bars Usher shines through and begins to weave his trademark ultra-cool vocals over the solid R&B backing. Usher never fails to deliver quality singles, but U-Turn is definitely among his very best, so it should set the charts on fire. And if you haven't seen the video yet – look out for it. It features some wild choreography and sees Usher dancing through his most impressive moves to date – on his hands!

PICTURES: PA/YUI MOK/ANDY BUTTERTON



NEXT WEEK

Funday's bursting with fresh ideas every week!

Get the very latest from 3SL, Aaron Carter, Bellefire, allSTARS and the S Club Juniors

Make sure you don't miss your chance to win Microsoft's Xbox!

As the Masters begins, meet popular US golfer Phil Mickelson

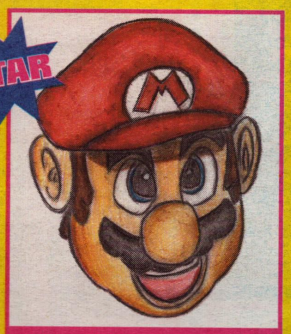
f-mail

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX Send your e-mail to: funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

HORRIBLE TALES

Scholastic's disgustingly brilliant Horrible series are great for getting you excited about history, science and geography. Other top titles include Dead Famous, stuffed full of facts about deceased famous people such as Einstein and Henry VIII, and My Story, a range of books focusing on key historical moments, including the Blitz and the Battle of Britain, all told with eye-witness accounts.

The writer of the star f-mail will receive 25 Scholastic titles, including the five books mentioned above. The other f-mailers will receive seven titles.



Richard Evans, 13, Leeds

Dear f-mail,
Thanks for the great Blue interview [issue 653]. I completely agree with the guys about Pop Idol. I'm not saying that Will can't sing, as he has an amazing voice, but the people who got into the final 10 didn't really earn it. They just turned up and sang at the auditions. Blue earned their place in the music business and their work has paid off as their album is really good. Good luck to the guys with their new single Fly By II – it rocks!
Alex James, 12, East Horsley

Dear f-mail,
I think your paper is fab! Here is a pop joke that I would like to share with you.

Knock, knock
Who's there?
Kym
Kym who?
Yeah, that's what happens when you leave Hear'Say!

Lisa Mackintosh, 10, Perth

Have you decided how you're going to Spring Into Action? Write and let everyone know!

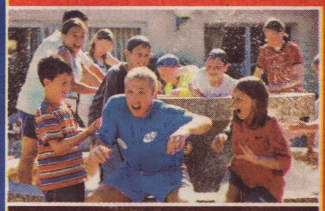
FUNDAY

WIN IT!

COMPETITION ADDRESS Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY. Competition deadline: April 10

You can e-mail your competition answers to: funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk
Sorry, but only one e-mail per entrant will be accepted.

SKILFUL BREAK



Haven Europe offers self-drive family holidays to resorts across France, Italy and Spain.
Haven Europe has teamed up with the FA-affiliated Premier Soccer School to provide professional football coaching for girls and boys of all abilities, aged between five and 16, at each of their eight parks. The five-day courses will be taken by experienced Uefa licensed coaches and will cover ball skills, penalty shoot-outs and fun skills games. Plus, goalkeeping sessions have been created with the support of Liverpool keeper Jerzy Dudek.
Haven Europe is offering two readers each a seven-day family trip [two adults, two children] to one of their top parks in France. The prize includes a free place on the football-training course for the winner and a return Dover-Calais crossing with SeaFrance.

To enter, tell us which country Jerzy Dudek will represent in the 2002 World Cup finals

Mark your entry HOLIDAY and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.

Haven Europe

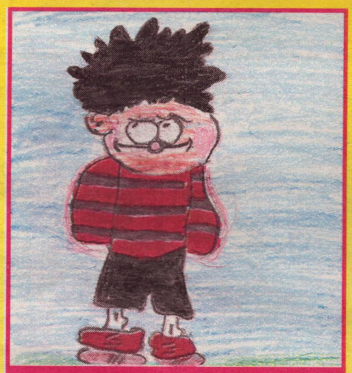
ON YOUR CYBIKO

Cybiko is the world's first wireless handheld computer that can be used to text chat, play free multiplayer games, and send e-mails to friends within a 100m range.
Connect to your computer to send and receive e-mails via the web and download more than 60 PDA applications for free, including a personal organiser, scientific calculator, WAP browser and language translators. Your Cybiko computer even comes with rechargeable batteries!
In total, there are more than 430 games and applications for you to download – all completely free on www.cybiko.com. Visit the website for more information.
Funday has got 14 pairs of fantastic Cybiko handheld computers to give away.

To enter, tell us what WAP stands for

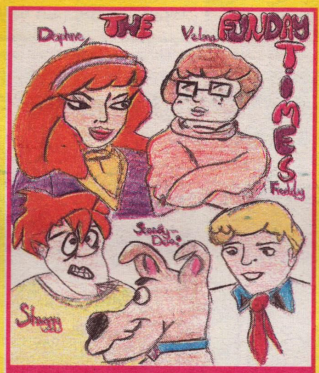
Mark your entry CYBIKO and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.

Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions



Sama Abu-Khadra, 8, London

Dear f-mail,
I'm replying to Antony Garvey's e-mail [issue 652]. I think it's terrible that scientists have started to clone animals. If it gets to cloning humans, there will probably be a lot more children in care homes, without a family history, without a hope of their parents ever coming to find them. People always say the nice thing about living is that you are unique. But if you had a clone you would not be unique. Scientists should stop in their tracks and think twice about cloning and about the effect it might have on lives of clones.
Yvonne Farrell, 11, Bracknell



Ksenia Kustova, 13, Lumphanan

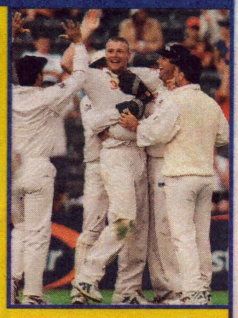
Dear f-mail,
I read about Spring Into Action in last week's Funday and I've already had an idea for a campaign. A few weeks ago you wrote a feature about wild cats, and the threats facing them. It's really sad that there are hardly any tigers left in the wild – and I think we should try to do something about it. I don't know how yet, but if we don't, future generations will only be able to read about tigers in books and watch videos of them because the real ones will be EXTINCT! Does anyone agree?
Claire Adams, 10, Thetford

SPRING INTO ACTION!

FUNDAY SPORT

ANDREW FLINTOFF

One of the England cricket team's most consistent performers during their gruelling winter tour of India and New Zealand has been Lancashire all-rounder, Andrew Flintoff

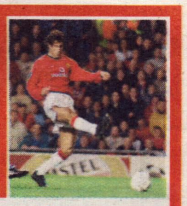


- Born in Preston on December 6, 1977, Andrew is more commonly known as "Freddie" to his team-mates – after Fred Flintstone. The Lancashire player's powerful frame [he's 1.93m tall] has helped to establish him as one of the hardest hitters of the ball, as well as an effective medium-paced bowler.
- He made his county debut in 1995, where his explosive scoring came to the fore. In 1999, he scored 143 off just 66 balls – including nine sixes – against Essex, and then hit 160 against Roses rivals, Yorkshire, at Old Trafford.
- Andrew has gained 15 Test caps for England and made his debut in the Fourth Test against South Africa, in 1998, at Trent Bridge, Nottingham. So far, his best Test innings is 137 – scored during the recent First Test against New Zealand. Andrew's best Test bowling figures are four for 50 in the Third Test against India, at Bangalore, last December.

- Last year, Andrew suffered from back problems and criticism about his weight. Undeterred, the 24-year-old changed his bowling action, and packed his bags to attend England's cricket academy in Adelaide. "I lost about 12kg, worked on my stomach muscles and changed my action slightly," he said. "Hopefully these three things will keep me bowling like this for some time to come."
- Andrew came storming back during the one-day series against India in January and February. This included his match-winning performance to level the series three-all, in Mumbai [Bombay], when he hit 40 runs and claimed three wickets. He celebrated claiming India's final wicket by removing his top in a football-style celebration! "I'll get a lot of stick for that," he said. "I'm not much of a football fan, the celebration was instinctive."
- "Andrew Flintoff is a shining example for other players out there," said England coach Duncan Fletcher, about Andrew's contribution to the winter tour. "People can look at Freddie and see that if you're prepared to put in the effort, it's remarkable what can happen to you."

SPORT NEWS

Funday picks out the best of this week's sporting action



Tuesday Champions League quarter-final, Deportivo La Coruna v Manchester Utd

It will be a very tough assignment for Sir Alex Ferguson's men, as they face the skilful and dangerous Spanish side, Deportivo. The two popular teams have met twice already in the earlier Champions League first group phase, with the Spanish side winning on both occasions. See coverage on ITV Sport.

Saturday Martell Grand National, Aintree

Bechers Brook, Canal Turn and The Chair might not sound intimidating, but for the horses and jockeys racing in the world's most famous steeplechase, they are names of Aintree's giant jumps. A unique and fantastic occasion in Britain's social and sporting calendar, watch the big race live at 3.45pm on BBC1's Grandstand.

BE FERGIE

New features, up-to-date stats and top knowledge from a legendary manager make Alex Ferguson's Player Manager 2002 on PSOne the ultimate game in the successful Player Manager series.

Ubi Soft Entertainment is offering one reader a PSOne console, a copy of the game, a Manchester United long-sleeved shirt, signed by Reds boss Sir Alex, and a red multi-pocketed backpack.

Plus, 15 runners-up will receive a copy of the game.

To enter, tell us the name of Manchester United's French goalkeeper.

Mark your entry REDS and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address on page 11.

PICTURES REUTERS/SIMON BAKER/IAN HODGSON, EPA/AFP/WILLIAM WEST PA

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